

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for carefully reviewing the present application. The present amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on September 12, 2005 regarding claims 1-20. The applicants have thoroughly reviewed the outstanding Office Action including the Examiner's remarks and the references cited therein. The following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action and render all claims at issue patentably distinguishable over cited references.

Favorable reconsideration is requested in view of the following remarks.

Claims 1, 9 and 14 are amended, and thereof claims 1-20 are now pending in the application. These amendments contain no new matter nor raise new issues.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

1. Claims 1-5 and 7-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Marola (2,897,022) (hereinafter referred to as "Marola"). These rejections are respectfully traversed. As will be fully explained below, it is respectfully submitted that Marola does not anticipate the claimed features of the present application, and the applicants respectfully request that the section 102(b) rejections be withdrawn.

As recited in claims 1, 9 and 14, the present application is directed to a coupling structure for serially coupling two motors, comprising: two bearing sleeves each formed with at least one groove and respectively disposed in the two motors; a connector having a first end and an opposed second end, the first end and the second end each formed with at least one groove; and at least two elastic fastener, each of which fits into the groove of the connector at one of the two ends and received in the groove formed on one of the two bearing sleeve. In claim 9, the elastic fasteners are ring-shaped elastic fasteners, each of which has an inner edge fit into the groove formed on the connector and an outer edge received in the groove formed on the bearing sleeves. In claim 14, the connector is directly formed on one bearing sleeve as a connection part, and one elastic fastener is used.

In the claimed inventions recited in claims 1, 9 and 14, two separate motors are serially coupled through the connection of the elastic fastener and the two bearing sleeves, with one portion of the elastic fastener fit into the groove on the connector while the remainder received in the groove on the bearing sleeve, and thus a tandem motor is easily formed.

In Marola, the two washers 13 are fitted to the stud shaft 7 in a single motor. Obviously, the coupling structure disclosed by Marola is two bearings (the washers 13)

engaged with a shaft (the stud shaft 7), and it is well known by a person skilled in the art that the bearing is between the bearing sleeve and the shaft. However, in the claimed inventions of claims 1, 9 and 14, the coupling structure for serially coupling two motors are two bearing sleeves coupled to each other by the at least one elastic fastener engaged with grooves both on each bearing sleeves and/or the connector, so that two motors are serially coupled to form a tandem motor (FIGs.1, 4A, 4B, 7A and 7B). Moreover, since the coupling structure disclosed by Marola is two washers 13 engaged with one stud shaft 7, the coupling structure cannot serially couple two motors. Therefore, Marola fails to disclose or anticipate the technique feature of the claimed inventions of serially coupling two separate motors by the elastic fastener engaged with grooves both on each bearing sleeves. Apparently, the coupling structure described by Marola is entirely different from that of the present application.

Therefore, Marola fails to disclose or anticipate the technique features of claims 1, 9 and 14, and the claims 1, 9 and 14 are allowable.

Since claims 1, 9 and 14 are allowable, dependent claims 2-5 and 7-8 each of which depends from independent claim 1, dependent claims 10-13 each of which depends from independent claim 9, and dependent claims 15-18 each of which depends from independent claim 14 are likewise believed to be allowable. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully request that the section 102(b) rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

2. Claims 14-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Harris (2,051,704) (hereinafter referred to as "Harris"). These rejections are respectfully traversed. As will be fully explained below, it is respectfully submitted that Harris does not anticipate the claimed features of the present application, and the applicants respectfully request that the section 102(b) rejections be withdrawn.

As recited in claim 14, the present application is directed to a coupling structure for serially coupling two motors, comprising: a first bearing sleeve having one end formed with a connection part, the connection part being formed with at least one groove in its outer surface, and the first bearing sleeve is disposed in one of the two motors; a second bearing sleeve formed with at least one groove on its inner surface and disposed in the other of the two motors; and at least one ring-shaped elastic fastener having an inner edge fit into the groove formed on the connection part of the first bearing sleeve and an outer edge received in the groove formed on the second bearing sleeve.

In the claim 14, two separate motors are serially coupled through the coupling structure of the elastic fastener and the two bearing sleeves, and thus a tandem motor is formed.

In Harris, the outer race ring 16 and the member 19 are fitted to the shaft 10, so it is obvious that the connection structure disclosed by Harris is bearings (the outer race ring 16

and the member 19) engaged with a shaft (the shaft 10). In the art, it is well known that the bearing is fitted between the bearing sleeve and the shaft. Since the connection structure disclosed by Harris is the outer race ring 16 and the member 19 fitted to one shaft 10, the connection structure cannot serially couple two separate motors. However, in claims 14, the coupling structure for serially coupling two motors is two bearing sleeves coupled to each other by the elastic fastener engaged with grooves both on each bearing sleeves and/or the connection part, so that two separate motors are serially coupled to form a tandem motor (FIGs.1, 4A, 4B, 7A and 7B). Harris fails to anticipate that serially coupling two separate motors by a coupling structure composed an elastic fastener and two bearing sleeves. Therefore, the coupling structure described by Harris is entirely different from that of the claimed invention.

According to the aforementioned description, Harris fails to disclose or anticipate the technique features of claim 14, and the claim 14 is allowable.

Since claim 14 is allowable, dependent claims 15-18 each of which depends from independent claim 14 are likewise believed to be allowable. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully request that the section 102(b) rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

1. Claims 6, 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C.103(a) as being unpatentable over Marola. These rejections are respectfully traversed. As will be fully explained below, it is respectfully submitted that Marola does not render the claimed invention obvious, and the applicants respectfully request that the section 103(a) rejection be withdrawn.

Just as the aforementioned description, since the independent claims 1 and 14 are allowable, the dependent claim 6 depending from independent claim 1, and the dependent claims 19 and 20 each of which depends from the independent claim 14 are likewise believed to be allowable. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully request that the section 103(a) rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

2. Claims 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C.103(a) as being unpatentable over Harris. These rejections are respectfully traversed. As will be fully explained below, it is respectfully submitted that Harris does not render the claimed invention obvious, and the applicants respectfully request that the section 103(a) rejection be withdrawn.

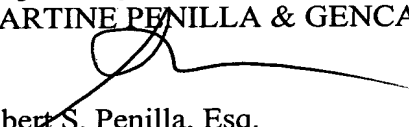
Just as the aforementioned description, since the independent claim 14 is allowable, the dependent claims 19 and 20 each of which depends from the independent claim 14 are likewise believed to be allowable. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully request that the section 103(a) rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Conclusion

In light of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-20 as currently presented are in condition for allowance and hereby requests reconsideration. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to pass the case to issue at the earliest convenience.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning the present amendment, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at (408) 749-6903. If any other fees are due in connection with filing this amendment, the Commissioner is also authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-0805 (Order No. JLINP177/TLC). A duplicate copy of the transmittal is enclosed for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,
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